

**I oppose H.B. 6355: AN ACT CONCERNING A RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS. I support HB 6499 AN ACT PERMITTING PERSONS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES USING NONLETHAL DEFENSIVE IMPLEMENTS**

H.B. 6355 is a poorly constructed and overly broad bill that ignores almost every aspect of due process, the foundation of the American justice system. By denying gun owners of their 2nd, 4th and 14th Amendment rights, this bill is another step towards reducing them to second-class citizens. Supporters try to justify denying those rights fundamental to our US Constitution, by anecdotes and hyperbole.

There is overarching agreement on both sides of the issues that those who are a proven danger to themselves or others should not have access to firearms. For years we had a process that involved an actual investigation and interview of the accused with due process. What this bill ignores completely is that those people need help, and it does nothing to provide that help. We started down this road in 2012 post Sandy Hook. There, lacking defendants to prosecute, after arguably the most heinous act in this state's history, the legislature decided to legislatively 'prosecute' law abiding firearms owners. The human urge to 'do something' in a crisis, overcame the possibility of finding meaningful common ground for a long-term mental health solution. Here we are again. Other testimony has adequately covered all the areas this bill leaves wide open to interpretation such as the lack of LE investigation, no requirement for evidence or corroboration of claims and the ability for virtually anyone to claim standing. As a practical matter for those that have been through divorce in this state, and we all have had friends and relatives who have, this bill appears to be the perfect legislative cudgel for further leverage against a spouse who simply lacks the resources to defend themselves.

In a larger context, this bill should be an opportunity to lay out meaningful guidelines to protect all citizens and to get the help for those that need it.

Lastly, I hope that you will support H.B. 6491 AN ACT CONCERNING NONLETHAL ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS which will allow people to defend themselves even if they choose not to carry a firearm.

VR, Ted Grabarz, New Canaan